

sent them to Iraq on false pretenses, on a poorly defined mission, without all of the tools they needed, and without a plan to get them out of there.

Our soldiers deserve better. They deserve a clear strategy from their President. They deserve a one-way ticket back home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, supporters of the preemptive war against Iraq say it was justified by the unprovoked 9/11 attacks. They claim that Muslim hatred for our democracy, freedom, Western values, and prosperity inspired the 19 suicide terrorists who attacked us on that dreadful day.

Opponents of the war argue that al Qaeda radicals who planned the attacks were not allies of Saddam Hussein, and that Iraq posed no threat to our national security. They further argue that our occupation of Iraq now inspires a growing number of radical Islamists to join the ranks of al Qaeda and support its war against U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But proponents of the war insist that our presence in Iraq is not what motivates al Qaeda to attack us, since we had no troops on Iraqi soil on 9/11; and yet al Qaeda attacked us anyway.

The enemy, they claim, is simply a group of radical Islamic fundamentalists who have hijacked the Muslim religion and declared war against our values for no legitimate or logical reason.

We should look at the facts if we want to understand why a growing number of Iraqis and Muslims worldwide are now motivated to join the insurgents in a guerrilla resistance that includes suicide terrorism. It is true that there were no U.S. troops in Iraq on 9/11, but it is also true that Saddam Hussein and Iraq had nothing to do with that attack.

In addition, we have been bombing Iraq since 1991, more than 10 years, on a regular basis. Stiff economic sanctions imposed on Iraq for over a decade by the U.S. and Britain caused extreme suffering and death of hundreds of

thousands of innocent Iraqis, many of them children.

Most military experts consider an economic blockade an act of war. We insulted and provoked millions of Muslims, especially fundamentalists, by keeping a military base in Saudi Arabia after the Persian Gulf War.

Osama bin Laden specifically expressed outrage at this policy in his writings. Throughout the 1980s, we allied ourselves with Saddam Hussein, a secularist in his fight against Iran and other Shiite fundamentalists.

We involved ourselves in this civil struggle within the Muslim community. For decades, we supported various secular Arab governments throughout the region, always in opposition to religious fundamentalists. The U.S. never wavered in its enthusiastic support of Israel over Arab-Muslim interests.

For decades Muslim fundamentalists have viewed U.S. policy as being driven by religious zealots because of the strong vocal support from many fundamentalist Christian leaders.

For literally hundreds of years, Europe has continually challenged Muslim and Arab domination of the Middle East. We have never, Europe or the United States, denied our interest in controlling Middle East oil. From Woodrow Wilson to the current neoconservative brand of foreign policy, the zeal for spreading democracy and Western values through force of arms has antagonized most Muslims.

□ 1845

If we continue to insist that our policy of foreign intervention has nothing to do with the ongoing war against an enemy we refuse to understand, we guarantee that this war will not soon end.

My suggestion is to change our foreign policy. Stop the war, bring our troops home, and stop the wasteful spending overseas. If we do not, the real security of our homeland will continue to be in jeopardy and the economic consequences will get worse and our freedoms at home will be further reduced.

It is time to say no to undeclared wars. It is time to say no to political and U.N. wars. It is time to say no to preemptive war. It is time to say no to nation building. It is time to say no to assuming it is our duty to make the world safe for democracy. It is time to say no to meddling in the affairs of others. It is time to say no to fighting countries that have never threatened our national security. It is time to stop financing extravagant war spending by printing more money. It is time to say yes to more sensible diplomacy.

The senseless death and suffering of so many with nothing to show for it must end. Peace is a far better goal to strive for than an undefined victory in a war that has no end.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

#### MAKE WISE BUDGET CHOICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, since the year 2000 this Congress has racked up more than \$3 trillion in new debt. Mind you, at a time in which in 2000 the American budget was running a surplus, but in that time we have run deficits on average a little north of \$400 billion and we have added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt.

How did we do it? We have tried to fight two wars with four tax cuts; and this Congress has served as an ATM to the special interests, showering them with billions in tax breaks and handouts. The prescription drug bill is a classic example where we are now adding close to what the American people were once told would be a \$400 billion prescription drug bill, is now worth \$800 billion and \$139 billion in extra profits to the pharmaceutical companies over 10 years.

Yet, all of the sudden when it comes to rebuilding the lives of our fellow citizens in New Orleans and on the coast, we are talking about cutting education, health care, areas of environment and energy for the rest of America, \$50 billion; and all the while we are trying to do that this Congress under a Republican majority wants to shower the wealthiest 1 percent, those who earn over \$200,000, with more tax cuts and more debt. Yet, what are we saying to the rest of America? You are going to get cuts in education, health care, environment, energy, national security areas, homeland in the area of police.

Yet the interesting thing, while all of this is happening here in the United States we are trying to turn ourselves into a pretzel, trying to cut \$50 billion from our education and health care. What are we doing in Iraq at this time? What are we doing in Iraq?

We are actually renovating and building 110 primary health care centers, vaccinating 3.2 million Iraqi children, rehabilitating 2,700 schools, training 36,000 secondary school teachers in Iraq. We fund 3,120 community development projects in Iraq, and we have provided housing for tens of thousands of Iraqis. And what do we tell the American people in the same area,